RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

October, 1999

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

FALL NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1999

RNA will be sponsoring its Annual FALL "Clean-Up" on Saturday October 16, 1999. So check your calendar and set aside a few hours to join us. This semi-annual event affirms our commitment to our neighborhood.

The day's activities will begin at **8:00 a.m.** and will initially focus on the cleaning of our two parks: **Janet Moore Park** at the corner of Cuneo Place and Ogden Avenues; and **Riverview-Fisk Park**, bound by Palisades Avenue and Griffith and Bowers Streets. In addition to cleaning these parks, we will also spend some time cleaning **Mountain Road**. Since the City has not completed the Mountain Road Project, this section of our neighborhood has once again turned into a dumping ground. While it is not our intention to clean and remove all of the debris at this site, it is hoped that we can remove a substantial amount that is currently in the view of our neighborhood.

In addition to the two parks and Mountain Road, we are hoping to obtain a supply of wood chips from the City for mulching the various planting beds in the parks. Alison Fontana has also indicated that the **Community Garden** (located in Riverview-Fisk Park) will be open during the clean-up hours and that several projects will be underway that morning.

As with previous clean-up weekends, we have arranged the use of **two City owned dumpsters** for the disposal of large household debris. As in the past, the Incinerator Authority will place a Dumpster at the North end of our community on **Hobson Street** and on the Southern end at **Franklin Street**. You are reminded to limit your use of the dumpsters to household items only. As once the dumpsters are filled, that's it till Spring!

We hope you will be available to participate in these activities and you will alert your friends and neighbors. If you would like to volunteer or lead a specific activity, please let us know. Our neighbor, **Kevin Mahony** will be coordinating the day's events for the Association. Please call **Kevin at 798-4676** and sign-up. We will also be planning a simple lunch for all of the volunteers after we have finished our work. So show your pride in our neighborhood and join us October 16th.

RNA VOTES FOR PERMIT PARKING

At the September 14th meeting, RNA conducted the third and final public vote concerning the implementation of several new parking ideas for our community: permit parking, metered parking on Palisade Avenue and demarcated parking spaces.

PERMIT PARKING:
By a vote of 27 to 2, the residents and business owners attending the meeting, approved the establishment of permit parking for a zoned area which would encompass our neighborhood. Enforcement would occur between Monday to Friday from 9 AM to 9 PM. Non-residents would be limited to parking in our neighborhood for two hours - after which they would be subject to a parking summons. Under permit parking, a local resident would purchase a $5.00 annual permit allowing them unlimited parking in their community.

The reason for this measure is to secure street parking for the local residents. Two recent Parking Authority surveys - the last one performed on September 8th and 9th - revealed that between one-third to one-half of the parked vehicles on Palisade, Ogden and New York Avenues are registered to indviduals living outside of Jersey City.

PARKING METERS:
The other idea is to install parking meters on Palisade Avenue between Franklin and Ferry Streets to help local businesses by giving their customers access to parking adjacent to their stores. The Palisade Avenue Business Association advocated this measure for its members. The proposal passed by a vote of 18 to 10.

DEMARCATED PARKING SPACES:
The final idea was to divide each side of the local streets into a set number of parking spaces that would be painted on the road itself. This measure was defeated by a vote of 21 to 3.

The results of this vote will be forwarded to our elected officials - Councilpeople DeGise, Gaughan and Bettinger. They will then then write an ordinance for the creation of our permit parking zone which will be brought before the City Council for approval.

RNA ANNUAL FOOD AND TOY DRIVE

Please contribute dry and canned food products and new or used toys to RNA's Annual Holiday Drive. All proceeds are donated to the Salvation Army for distribution to less fortunate families during the holidays. Bring the food and toys to the next RNA meetings in October, November and December. Used toys should be in good working order.

You can also make a monetary donation. You can drop off your contributions during the week or receive more information by calling **Maria at 659-2245.**

HARBOR VIEW HOLIDAY PARTY

RNA will hold is annual holiday party for the residents of the Harbor View Health Care Facility on **Friday, November 19th at 1:30 PM.** It is an afternoon of fun, music, food and drink - with gifts for all the residents. We are expecting special guest appearances by Santa Claus and his friend Blinky the Clown.

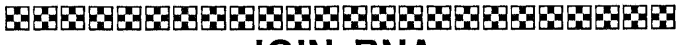
This year we are asking for donations of men's or woman's handkerchiefs, warm socks or small unbreakable items, such as picture frames or bric-a-brac. We are also looking for gifts of small stuffed animals or rag dolls. These items will be packaged as gifts for the residents. All donations will be accepted at the next two RNA meetings in October and November.

We need volunteers to serve, bake or donate dietetic delicacies. Baked goods should be brought to the Facility located at the corner of Franklin and Ogden on the day of the party. If you are baking, please use disposable pans or trays.

As usual, we are also planning live musical entertainment for our seniors. However, the most appreciative gift is for people to volunteer by spending time and talking to these marvelous residents. It does wonders to just see their eyes light up when someone spends some quality time with them. They also love to have young children visit and talk to them. Therefore, we need you to come and participate in this marvelous event. You will be rewarded as you see the smiles on their faces.

If interested please call **Jack at 653-6916** or speak to Maria, Jack or Valerie at the October meeting. This is RNA's way of thanking these seniors for allowing us to use their home for our monthly meetings.

Jack Rea



JOIN RNA

The annual membership dues of **$7.00** enables a local resident to vote on important issues in our community and receive our monthly newsletter. **Our boundaries are Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Congress Street to Cuneo Place.**

MEETING MINUTES: September 14, 1999

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by the Chair.

Police Captain Wolleon of the North District made his first appearance before our group. He was accompanied by Sgt. Dan Lissi and Officers Mark Conroy and Vince Alsina. The Captain described his efforts in fighting the problem of drug traffic in our neighborhood. The fact that the City"s Narcotic Squad is divided between the North and East Districts, has limited his ability to effectively contain this chronic problem.

Local NTF officers, working the 10 PM to 6 AM shift to curtail auto thefts, are also addressing the drug problem with the help of the Narcotics Squad.

The Narcotics Squad has an excellent record for building a strong case against these drug traffickers in order to obtain search warrants. They have also been successful in carrying out these warrants and then following up by testifying at the subsequent trials.

The Captain also mentioned that there is a burglary problem in the Heights, specifically between Boeraem Avenue and State Highway from Palisade to Central Avenues. The police have made 47 arrests - 18 of them while the burglaries were in progress. Sgt. Dan Lissi and his undercover squad have spearheaded this successful effort.

Afterwards, some of the residents were able to give the Captain specific information about problem buildings on Palisade Avenue and the hours when certain crimes occur. The corners of Hutton and Palisade and Franklin and Palisade seem to have a lot of illegal activity during the early morning hours.

Neighborhood Improvement District Managers Laura Petersen and Susan Benavides gave a brief presentation of their recent activities in our neighborhood. Ms. Benavides has taken over the responsibilities of the NID manager for North-6. She also announced that the NID is now working on Saturday between the hours of 8:30 AM to 400 PM. [For a more detailed report, see the NID report following these meeting minutes.]

Annual Fall Clean-up: Vice-Chair Kevin Mahony made an announcement about RNA's annual fall clean-up to take place on **Saturday, October 16th.** The clean-up will include the two local parks and Mountain Road. [For more information about the event and how to volunteer, see the article on the front page.]

Permit Parking: RNA conducted the final of three separate votes regarding the issues of permit parking, meters on Palisade Avenue and demarcated parking spaces for our community. Based on the other two votes that took place in July and August, the proposal was to have permit parking enforced Monday to Friday between the hours of 9 AM to 9 PM with a two hour window for non-residents. The group

overwhelmingly approved permit parking by a vote of 27 to 2 with 2 abstentions.

The next vote was for a proposal to install parking meters on Palisade Avenue between Franklin and Ferry Streets. The group passed the meter proposal by a vote of 18 to 10 with 3 abstentions. It was also specified that the meters should be tried on a temporary basis for a certain period of time to evaluate their effect on the community. The new Palisade Avenue Business Association supported this proposal to stimulate business.

The last proposal to draw demarcated parking spaces on the streets was defeated by a vote of 21 to 3 with 4 abstentions.

Holiday Activities: Maria Tuzzo announced the start of RNA's **annual holiday drive for toys and food** for the less fortunate in our community. The deadline for donations - either items or cash - is December 10th. All proceeds are donated to the Salvation Army for distribution.

The date for RNA's annual night of **Xmas carolling** is Sunday, December 19th.

Palisade Avenue Redevelopment Proposal: **Robert Cotter, Director of Planning** for Jersey City came to update the community on the status of this project. He was also asked to dispel any rumors that residents or business owners have heard about this plan.

Mr. Cotter made it clear that nothing has been decided yet. He stated that it is a long process and that an analysis, or study of the area is the first order of business. The study will take stock of the area - a snap shot of our community - to inventory and evaluate the existing conditions: physical and economic. The study will also take stock of the number of building vacancies, foreclosures and outstanding tax liens. The study would take about six months to complete.

Based on this study the City will develop a redevelopment plan incorporating what the community itself wants to see happen in their own neighborhood. The City was considering the following boundaries for this project: Palisade Avenue, South Street, New York Avenue and Prospect Street.

He stated that since 1980, people have been demanding that something be done about Palisade Avenue. Now with the urging of three councilpeople, DeGise, Gaughan and Bettinger, the project has become a high priority in his department. Unfortunately, with the impending layoffs, this project will take even longer.

Cotter proudly stated that the redevelopment plan for Martin Luther King Drive has already won several awards. He also informed the group that currently the City is in the process of adopting a redevelopment plan for Paulus Hook in the downtown area.

Cotter made it clear that we as the residents would have much to say about what the plans would be for Palisade Avenue, including the need for new businesses and the development of new residential buildings.

Some people expressed concern that the Central Avenue business community would try to stop the revitalization of a Palisade Avenue business community. Cotter said he knew of no such effort. He also clarified that Central Avenue was zoned as a commercial district while Palisade Avenue was zoned residential. And while Central Avenue is the "premiere" shopping area in the Heights, he did not see any reason why Palisade Avenue could not be a viable business attraction as well.

Another person questioned whether hi-rise construction would be included in this project. Mr. Cotter stated that a redevelopment ordinance replaces the zoning in that specific area and that all proposed construction must conform to the new plan. Variances are not permitted in a redevelopment plan. Therefore, the community must incorporate their desired density for all new projects into this plan.

As to the relocation of businesses, again it will be determined by the community and then incorporated into the plan. The bottom line is that the community must create a plan not only to encourage what is wanted - but just as important, to prohibit what is not wanted. Mr Cotter ended his talk with this advice: "Don't be afraid of change - Manage it!"

Wrap-up: The 50/50 was won by **Joselyn Segaras**. The group then enjoyed cake and coffee i honor of long time member **Catherine Keens** who moved after living on Ogden Avenue for over 35 years. Good Luck Catherine! The meeting ended at 9:40 PM.

Maria Tuzzo, Secretary

NID UPDATE:

Litter Patrol: North 6 and 7 have retained a vestige of the Littler Patrol begun in October, 1998 as a joint project between NID, JCIA and Hudson County Occupational Center. Both districts share a crew consisting of two HCOC workers and Monitor Joseph Drayton. The filled bags of debris are picked up by Forestry trucks. The crew also assists in weed removal around catchbasins, fire hydrants, etc.

436-438 Palisade Avenue: This vacant lot's owner has proved elusive. The property is listed as his home address and is also the one on the checks sent to pay the property's taxes. The Tax Assessor's Office was able to track down an address believed to be the owner's residence and a notice has been sent.

401-409 Ogden Avenue: A contractor hired to remove two diseased trees instead cut down all six trees bordering this property. Parks and Forestry is looking into whether the contractor is obligated to replace the healthy trees inadvertantly cut down.

Warnings: We hoped by his time to have eliminated the use of written warnings prior to the issuance of summons; many of us had begun going directly to summons months ago. However, when the summons began to go to court, many were being dismissed because no warning had been given! To be on the safe side, warnings are again being issued and all violations are photographed before summons are issued.

Personnel Changes: John Mateo resigned through a buy-out program offered by the City; North 6 Manager Yavalier Rodriguez also took the buy-out. In his absence, North 9 Manager Susan Benavides will be covering North 6. North 7 Code Enforcement Officer Carol Pasquale was assigned to East 3 District to help cover manpower shortages. In all, thirteen workers in the NID opted for the buy-out.

Municipal Layoffs: As you know, the City has announced layoffs effective October 31, 19999. All NID workers received layoff notices; many Housing Code Enforcement workers also received notices.

Laura Petersen, North-7
Susan Benavides, North-6

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Parks and Forestry

INVITES THE PUBLIC TO THE DEDICATION OF THE NEWLY-DEVELOPED

GREEN PARK

AT LIBERTY STATE PARK
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1999
at 1:30 PM

Bordered on the west by Freedom Way and on the east by Liberty Walk, the newly developed Green Park is made up of magnificent crescent lawns, trails, a new playground, restrooms, and landscaping improvements, including trees, shrubs, and a wildflower meadow. Approximately 4 miles of paved walkway have been added, as well as seven plaza areas located along Liberty Walk, which overlooks the Hudson River and provides views of Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. Refreshments will be served.

For more information: **(201) 915-3401.**

"TRUTH IN RENTING"

To obtain a FREE copy of this guide to the rights and responsibilities of residential tenants and landlords, contact Constituent Services at **547-4900.**

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

Tell us what you think about what you just read in this newsletter. Are you satisfied with the quality of life on your block? Send articles, comments or recipes to 232 Ogden Ave.
The next deadline: **Friday, October 22th.**

HUDSON SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

Presents

THE CRUCIBLE

by Arthur Miller

Directed by Jessa Kelly

OLC VICTORY HALL
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October 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24
Friday/Saturdays: 8 PM
Sundays: 2 PM
Adults: $12.00 Seniors/Seniors: $10.00

For more information: (201) 865-1436

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL ART MUSEUM

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472 Jersey Avenue / (201) 547-4514

The Museum is located on the 4th Floor of the Main Library building on the corner of Jersey Avenue and Montgomery Street.

Admission is Free

Become a Sponsor of the Jersey City Museum.

☞ RECYCLE YOUR GARBAGE AND DISPOSABLES - IT'S THE LAW!

The Jersey City Incinerator Authority recycles the following materials:

PAPER: NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES, JUNK MAIL, SCHOOL PAPER, OFFICE PAPER, COMPUTER PAPER, TELEPHONE BOOKS, ALL CARDBOARD BOXES & CORRUGATED BOXES, CEREAL BOXES, PASTA BOXES, LAUNDRY DETERGENT BOXES

PLASTICS: MILK CARTONS, DRINK BOXES, PLASTIC MILK CONTAINERS, FOOD CONTAINERS, HOUSEHOLD CLEANER CONTAINERS, LAUNDRY DETERGENT BOTTLES, SHAMPOO BOTTLES

GLASS: SODA BOTTLES, BEER BOTTLES, FOOD JARS, LIQUOR BOTTLES

CANS: ALUMINUM, TIN, STEEL (NO CHEMICAL OR PAINT CANS).

Our neighborhood pick-up day is WEDNESDAY. For more information, call **432-4645.**

Bulletin board

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

1) Neighborhood Improvement District: **To leave a message on voice mail, call 547-4974 and**

a) **Ext. 8010 for North-6 Mgr. Susan Benavides** (Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Cuneo Place to Griffith Street)

b) **Ext. 8021 for North-7 Mgr. Laura Petersen** (Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Griffith to Congress Streets.) .

2) PSEG LIGHTING: To report a non-functioning light in the Park or on any of our streets, call **PSEG** at **330-6572** and leave a message with exact location of problem.

3) PARKING AUTHORITY: To report a parking complaints call **653-6969**, and press #9. This number is good till 12 midnight. If there is an emergency, Mr. Carmine Venezia PA Director can be reached through his beeper **517-3367**, till midnight during the weekdays and till 5 pm on Saturdays.

From Valerie's Kitchen:

Late Summer Pizza

INGREDIENTS:

Extra virgin olive oil
3/4 cup plus 1 tblsp. warm water (105-115 degrees)
1 1/2 tsp. active dry yeast
2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
5 tblsp. coarse cornmeal
Kosher salt
1 1/4 pounds tomatoes
freshly ground pepper
2 ears of sweet corn, husked
3 cloves of garlic, peeled & sliced thin
15 large basil leaves, cut into thin strands
3/4 cup of ricotta cheese
pitted imported olives, optional

1) Lightly coat mixing bowl with oil and set aside. Combine water, 2 tsp. of oil and yeast. Add flour, 2 tblsp. of cornmeal and 2 1/2 tsp. of salt. Combine ingredients until dough forms a ball (about 15 seconds). Transfer dough to lightly floured counter. Knead for 30 seconds and shape into ball. Place dough in oiled bowl, cover with plastic wrap and set aside to rise for 1 hour.
2) Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Core tomatoes and slice them 1/4 inch thick. Arrange on 12-by-17 inch nonstick or parchment-lined jellyroll pan. Season well with salt and pepper. Roast tomatoes until softened about 25 to 30 minutes.Transfer pan to cooling rack and increase oven to 400 degrees.
3) Using a sharp knife and working over large bowl, cut kernels off corn cobs. With the back of knife, scrape milk from cobs into bowl. Season with salt to taste.
4) Brush another jellyroll pan with oil and dust with remaining cornmeal. Lift dough from bowl, stretch it slightly and place in center of pan. Dip your fingers in oil and begin to press dough out from middle of pan to edges. If dough springs back, let it rest for 5 minutes. Continue to pat it out until dough is thin and covers entire surface of pan. Cover with oiled plastic wrap and allow to rest for 15 minutes.
5) Sprinkle garlic and basil evenly over dough. Top with roasted tomatoes, and scatter with corn kernels. Drop teaspoons of ricotta about two inches apart in rows over the pizza. Drizzle with a little oil and season with salt and pepper. Top with olives if desired.
6) Bake until crust is golden and top is bubbling, 20 to 30 minutes. Cool for 3 minutes, then cut into squares.

POLICEBEAT

Residents should contact their **Neighborhood Task Force** (NTF) **Police Officers** if they have a problem, a safety concern or knowledge of criminal activity through the North District's Community Service voice mail at **547-5719** or through the front desk at **547-5350**. When leaving a message, include your name, telephone number, street address, the nature of the problem and the date and time of the message. For emergencies, call **547-5477** or **911**.

In addition, anyone with information about illegal drug use and/or drug dealing, should contact the JCPD **Narcotics Unit** at **547-5391** or beeper at **502-9131**. All calls will be strictly confidential.

On the following page, RNA has reprinted a page from the 1999 edition of the Heights Pride Booklet, entitled **Suspicious Activity / Crime Report**. Please use it to write down all information about any illegal activity that you witness in our neighborhood. The information will be helpful when you make the report to the police, in their investigation and if necessary, apprehension of a suspect.

[The **Heights Pride Booklet**, complied by Councilman Bill Gaughan, is a very helpful resource guide to municipal services. Copies can be obtained by calling Tom Dolan, the Councilman's aide at **547-4576** or picking it up at his Heights office at the Municipal Building at 325 Palisade Avenue.]

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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CIRCULATION: Beth D'Errico, Jack Rea, Maria Tuzzo

HELP US PATROL OUR STREETS!
WE NEED YOU – PLEASE CONTACT US BY PHONE OR MAIL

THE JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
NORTH DISTRICT POLICE 282 CENTRAL AVENUE
547-5350 FRONT DESK - 547-5719 NTF OFFICE OR 911

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY/CRIME REPORT

WAS THIS A (CHECK ONE) _____CRIME _____SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY
BRIEFLY DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED:
ALCOHOL DRINKING:_____BURGLARIES_____DISORDERLY GROUPS____NARCOTICS ACTIVITY___NOISE___PROSTITUTION_____
WHEN DID IT HAPPEN? DATE:_____TIME:_____

Where Did it Happen?
STREET_____
ADDRESS_____
NEAREST CROSS STREET:_____

SUSPECT DESCRIPTION

__MALE____FEMALE____Age____Height_____Weight_____Race_____
Hair Color_____Mustache, beard_____Glasses____Color of eyes_____
Tatttoos, amputations, scars and/or other distinguishing marks_____
Noticeable accents or special characteristics of speech_____

CLOTHING

Shirt_____Coat_____Trousers_____Shoes_____Tie_____Hat
Rings, Bracelets, Necklaces or Earings:_____

WEAPON

Handgun_____Rifle_____Knife_____Club_____Other_____

DESCRIPTION OF VEHICLE

Make_____Year_____Body Style_____Color_____
License Number_____State____(If unable to identify state, color of license):____
Identifying dents, scratches, wheels, markings

ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL

Name_____

Address_____Phone No._____

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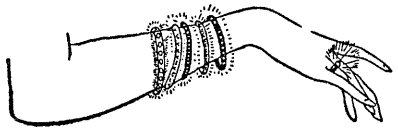

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Express Your Opinions
at the Next RNA Meeting on
Tuesday, OCTOBER 12th AT 7:00PM

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

Have a Safe
Halloween:
Accompany your
children for trick or
treat or have a
supervised party

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RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairperson

Kevin Mahony
Vice-chairperson

Maria Tuzzo
Secretary

Beth D'Errico
Treasurer

Len Davis
Sgt. at Arms

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: Tuesday, October 12th at 7:00 PM
LOCATION: THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

- **DISCUSSION OF FUTURE PLANS and FALL PROJECTS FOR OUR COMMUNITY**
- **NEW BUSINESS**
- **POLICE REPORT / NID UPDATE**

FALL CLEAN-UP: Saturday, October 16th, 8 AM
DUMPSTERS located on HOBSON and FRANKLIN STREETS between Palisade and Ogden Avenues.

CLEANING of both local Parks and Mountain Road. (See Article on pg. 1.)